

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/697,798

Applicant(s)

OTSUGA ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Aaron M. Dunwoody

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to paper filed 10/31/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/30/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Aaron Dunwoody
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Goodell, Reg. No. 41040, on 6/24/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, change from "U.S. Patent Application No. 10/297,400" to "U.S. Patent Application No. 10/297,400, now abandoned."

ABSTRACT

In a A duct connection assemble, whereby upon connecting a saddle flange 2a (2a) of the joint duct [[8]] (8) to the main ribbed duct [[3]] (3) through the communication hole [[1b]] (1b), the rubber sealant [[1]] (1) is interposed between the saddle flange [[2a]] (2a) and a circumferential area of the communication hole [[1b]] (1b) so that protuberances [[2b]] (2b) uniformly press the rubber sealant [[1]] (1) through the recesses [[1d]] (1d) to tightly engage the saddle flange [[2a]] (2a) against an outer surface of the main ribbed duct [[3]] (3) through rib-fitting grooves [[1a]] (1a) and the water sealing small projective rings [[1c]] (1c). The joint duct [[2]] (2) is brought into an elastical engagement with the main ribbed duct [[3]] (3) to achieve a good water sealing action for an extended period of time.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not disclose a duct connection assemble comprising a joint duct having a branch duct and a saddle flange; a main ribbed duct; a rubber sealant having rib-fitting grooves to be fit into the ribs, and having a communication hole which is to be communicated with an upper side opening; a plurality of recesses provided on an upper surface of the rubber sealant; a plurality of protuberances on a lower of surface the saddle flange; a plurality of water sealing small projective rings on a lower surface of the rubber sealant corresponding to the recesses concentrically surrounding the communication hole; wherein connecting the saddle flange of the joint duct to the main ribbed duct through the communication hole, the rubber sealant is interposed between the saddle flange and a circumferential area of the communication hole so that the protuberances uniformly press the rubber sealant substantially through the recesses to tightly engage the saddle flange against an outer surface of the main ribbed duct through rib-fitting grooves and the water sealing small projective rings.

The Examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily combined and that there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make a proposed combination of primary and secondary references.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Aaron M Dunwoody
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679

.amd